

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 80, the independent claims being Claims 1, 6, 11 and 57. Claims 1 to 10 have been amended herein. Claims 11 to 80 are newly presented herein.

In the Official Action dated November 7, 2003, Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not enabled by the specification, and Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,473,373 (Hwung), and Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Hwung '373 patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 1 to 10 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel signal processing apparatus and method. In one aspect, the present invention includes a gamma converting circuit which converts a primary color signal of m bits into a primary color signal of k bits, a color converting circuit which converts the primary color signal of k bits into a signal of L bits showing the brightness and the color difference, and a bit converting circuit which converts the obtained signal of L bits showing the color difference into a signal of n bits showing the color difference signal, whereby $m > k \geq L > n$.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be

patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Hwung '373 patent relates to a digital gamma correction system for low, medium and high intensity video signals, with linear and non-linear correction, and discloses an image capture and display system containing a three-stage digital gamma correction circuit. However, Applicant submit that the Hwung '373 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Rather, the Hwung '373 patent merely discloses a gamma circuit which performs gamma correction to the brightness of a CRT.

Newly presented Claims 11 to 80 have been added to provide Applicant with an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. No new matter has been added.

New Independent Claim 11

In another aspect, the present invention provides a first non-linearization circuit which converts an R, G and B primary color signals of m bits into R, G and B primary color signals of n bits ($m > n$) through a non-linear process, and a second non-linearization circuit converts a brightness signal of m bits into a brightness signal of k bits ($m > k$) through the non-linear process.

New Independent Claim 57

In another aspect, the present invention provides a non-linearization circuit which non-linearizes the primary color signals.

Applicant has reviewed the Hwang '373 patent, and the other art of record, and submits that it fails to disclose or suggest the above features of the present invention.

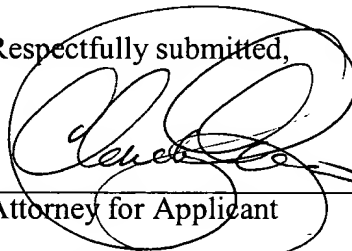
For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 6, 11 and 57 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 10, 12 to 56 and 58 to 80 depend from Claims 1, 6, 11 and 57, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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